Claims

1. A system for mapping a surface comprising:

a projection device operative to project a sequence of parallel bars, each of said bars having one of a first and second light values, wherein a vector representation of the order of said bars, supplemented by a value representing an additional bar, is mutually orthogonal to any circular shift of said order supplemented by a value representing an additional bar;

means for generating an image of the surface; and

means for processing the resulting image to map the surface.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said bars has substantially the same width.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein said bars whose order in said sequence is equal to the remainder of a perfect square number divided by the number of said bars in each period have said first light value, and all other said bars have said second light value.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein said sequence comprises a prime number p of bars according to the formula $[p = 4m - 1]$, where m is a positive integer.

5. The system according to claim 3 wherein said prime number p is 19.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said bars is have on of a first and second light value, according to the sequence:

    $$+ + + + - + - + + - - + - - -$$

    where "+" represents the first light value and "−" represents the second light value, or any circular shift of said sequence.

7. A method of mapping a surface comprising the steps of:

    (a) projecting a bar code onto the surface to be mapped;

    (b) shifting said bar code over the surface a number of times equal to one less than the number of bars comprising said bar code;

(c)   imaging the surface for each position of said

bar code, to collect data as to the light

intensity of each of a plurality of pixels

comprising said image; and

(d)   processing said collected data to determine the

location in three dimensional space of the

portion of the surface corresponding to each

pixel.

8.   The method according to claim 7, wherein the

processing of the collected data includes the

addition of data representing an image of the

surface without said projected bar code.

9.   The method according to claim 8 further comprising

the step of imaging the surface to be mapped absent

said projected bar code to form said additional

data.

10.   The method according to claim 8 further comprising

the step of simulating a dark image to form said

additional data.

11.   The method according to claim 7 wherein the step of

processing said collected data to determine the

location in three dimensional space of the portion

of the surface corresponding to each pixel further comprises:

(a) calculating the correspondence of each pixel to a respective one of said bars which comprise the bar code.

12. The method according to claim 7 wherein the step of processing said collected data to determine the location in three dimensional space of the portion of the surface corresponding to each pixel further comprises:

(a) calculating the proportion of each of a plurality of said bars that correspond to each pixel.

13. A bar code pattern for mapping a surface, said bar code comprising a sequence of parallel bars, each of said bars having one of a first and second light values, wherein a vector representation of the order of said bars, supplemented by a value representing an additional bar, is mutually orthogonal to any circular shift of said order supplemented by a value representing an additional bar.

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14. The bar code pattern according to claim 13 wherein said bars whose order in said sequence is equal to the remainder of a perfect square number divided by the number of said bars in each period have said first light value, and all other said bars have said second light value.

15. The bar code pattern according to claim 13 wherein each of said bars has a substantially the same width.

16. The bar code pattern according to claim 13 wherein said sequence of bars comprises a prime number p of bars according to the formula $[p = 4m - 1]$, where m is a positive integer.

17. The bar code pattern according to claim 16 wherein said prime number p is 19.

18. The bar code pattern according to claim 13, said structured light comprising 15 bars, wherein each of said bars is has one of a first and second light value, according to the sequence

+ + + + - + - + + - - + - - -

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where "+" represents the first light value and "-"
represents the second light value, or any circular
shift of said sequence.

19. An apparatus displaying the bar code pattern
according to claim 13.

20. An apparatus for mapping a surface comprising:

an input for receiving image data representing a
plurality of images of the surface, at least one of
said images depicting said surface illuminated by a
predetermined structured light;

means for determining the correspondence between
each pixel of said image data and one or more
portions of said predetermined structured light;

means for calculating a position of a portion of
said surface corresponding to each pixel from the
determined correspondence, a predetermined position
of a source of the predetermined structured light,
and a predetermined position of the source of the
images,

said determining and said calculating being
carried out as a function of a stored sequence of

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parallel bars, each of said bars having one of a

first and second light values, wherein a vector

representation of the order of said bars,

supplemented by a value representing an additional

bar, is mutually orthogonal to any circular shift of

said order supplemented by a value representing an

additional bar.

21. The apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said

means for determining the correspondence comprises

means for calculating the inner product of a time

series vector for each pixel of the image data and a

time series fingerprint of each portion of the

predetermined structured light.

22. A method of mapping a surface comprising:

collecting image data representing a plurality of

images of the surface, at least one of said images

depicting said surface illuminated by a

predetermined structured light;

determining the correspondence between each pixel

of said image data and one or more portions of said

predetermined structured light;

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calculating a position of a portion of said

surface corresponding to each pixel from the

determined correspondence, a predetermined position

of a source of the predetermined structured light,

and a predetermined position of the source of the

images,

said determining and said calculating being

carried out as a function of a stored sequence of

parallel bars, each of said bars having one of a

first and second light values, wherein a vector

representation of the order of said bars,

supplemented by a value representing an additional

bar, is mutually orthogonal to any circular shift of

said order supplemented by a value representing an

additional bar.

23. The method according to claim 22, wherein

determining the correspondence comprises calculating

the inner product of a time series vector for each

pixel of the image data and a time series

fingerprint of each portion of the predetermined

structured light.

24. An apparatus for generating a bar code pattern for

mapping a surface, said apparatus comprising a

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projection device operative to project a bar code

comprising a sequence of parallel bars, each of said

bars being one of either light and dark, wherein a

vector representation of the order of light and dark

bars, supplemented by a value representing a dark

bar, is mutually orthogonal to any circular shift of

said order supplemented by a value representing a

dark bar.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said

projection device comprises a laser emitter and a

rotating reflective surface.

26. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said

projection device comprises a mask for forming said

bar code.

27. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said

projection device comprises means for generating a

video signal, and means for actively projecting said

video signal.

28. A processor for mapping a surface comprising:

means for determining correspondence between each

pixel of image data representing a plurality of

images and one or more portions of a predetermined

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structured light, wherein at least one image among

said plurality of images depicts said surface

illuminated by said predetermined structured light,

said means for determining comprising means for

calculating the inner product of a time series

vector for each pixel of the image data and a time

series fingerprint of each portion of the

predetermined structured light;

means for calculating a position of a portion of

said surface which corresponds to each pixel from

said determined correspondence, a predetermined

position of a source of said predetermined

structured light, and a predetermined position of a

source of said series of images.